

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A cylindrical stent formed from a single piece of metal, the stent comprising a multiplicity of sets of strut members with each set of strut members forming a closed cylindrical structure having a longitudinal axis collinear with a longitudinal axis of the stent, the closed structure comprised of interconnected strut members, each strut member connected at a first end to an adjacent strut member and at a second end to another adjacent strut member, the stent constructed and arranged such that in an unexpanded state of the stent, each strut member being is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent and equidistant from adjacent strut members to which it is connected, there being a gap between struts which are adjacent one another and parallel to one another, in an expanded state of the stent each strut member being non-parallel to the longitudinal axis, adjacent sets of strut members being coupled each to the other by connectors, said stent having a proximal end, a distal end and a center section located approximately half-way between said proximal and distal ends, said stent having two types of circumferentially extending sets of strut members, a first type of set of strut members and a second type of set of strut members, the first type of set of strut members having a shorter total circumferential length as compared to the total circumferential length of the second type of set of strut members, ~~a closed member formed by the first type of set of strut members having a shorter perimeter than a closed member formed by the second type of set of strut members member,~~ only the set of strut members at the distal end of the stent and only the set of strut members at the proximal end of the stent being the second type of set of strut members, the stent when expanded having a uniform diameter and having the first type of set of strut members having greater radial rigidity as compared to the second type of set of strut members.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 9 where said first type of set of strut members has a length in the longitudinal direction that is less than the length in the longitudinal direction of said second type of set of strut members.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 9 where there is at least one of the first type of set of strut members at said center section of the stent.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 9 where said stent is balloon

expandable.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 9 where said stent is a radially self-expanding stent.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The stent as recited in claim 9 where said stent is a mechanically expandable stent.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the connectors are disposed at an oblique angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) A stent formed from a single piece of material, the stent comprising a multiplicity of sets of strut members with each set of strut members forming a serpentine closed structure which extends about the circumference of the stent, the closed structure comprised of strut members, each strut member connected at a first end to one adjacent strut via a curved end segment and at a second end to another adjacent strut via another curved end segment, the curved end segments being of the same length, adjacent sets of strut members being coupled each to the other by connectors, said stent having a proximal end, a distal end and a center section located approximately half-way between said proximal and distal ends, said stent having two types of circumferentially extending sets of strut members, a first type of set of strut members and a second type of set of strut members, the first type of set of strut members forming a path that follows along the serpentine closed structure of one of the sets of strut members about the periphery of the stent which has a shorter total length as compared to the total length of a pathway that follows along the serpentine closed structure of another of the sets of strut members about the periphery of the stent formed by the second type of set of strut members, only the set of strut members at the distal end of the stent and only the set of strut members at the proximal end being the second type of set of strut members, the stent when expanded having a uniform diameter and having the first type of set of strut members having greater radial rigidity as compared to the second type of set of strut members.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 18 wherein the connectors are disposed at an oblique angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 18 wherein the circumferentially extending closed structure is in the form of a cylindrical zig-zag.